

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4156

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNFPA, SPOP, RO
SUBJECT: UN-ROMANIAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER

REF: STATE 138167 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, EMBOFF MET WITH FERDINAND RATH, DIRECTOR OF UN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER, ON JUNE 6. RATH, A DUTCH NATIONAL, HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF CENTER SINCE INCEPTION IN 1974.

2. RATH IS OF BASIC OPINION THAT AIMS OF CENTER COULD BE BETTER SERVED IF RELOCATED IN FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRY. IN HIS OWN WORDS, QUOTE, LOCATION OF THE CENTER IN BUCHAREST WAS MARRIAGE OF SCIENCE AND POLITICS THAT HAS INEVITABLY RESULTED IN PROSTITUTION, END QUOTE. RATH CITED NUMBER OF PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO ROMANIA WHICH HAVE CAUSED HIM TO NURTURE THIS VIEW, SUCH AS:

A. LOCATION OF CENTER IN EUROPEAN, COMMUNIST COUNTRY HAS DISCOURAGED SOME AFRICAN NATIONS,
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SENEGAL FOR EXAMPLE, FROM PARTAKING IN PROGRAM, AND

B. GOR HAS OCCASIONALLY INTERFERED WITH PROGRAMMING. ACCORDING TO RATH, GOR HAS BLOCKED HIS EFFORTS TO BRING IN FAMILY PLANNING EXPERTS IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH CEAUSESCU'S POLICY OF ENCOURAGING HIGH BIRTH RATES TO EXPAND LABOR FORCE.

3. WE HAVE REPORTED RATH'S COMMENTS AT SOME LENGTH, BUT DO NOT NECESSARILY BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD INFLUENCE USG'S DECISION TO SUPPORT SALAS' PROPOSAL RE EXTENSION OF CENTER'S ACTIVITIES BEYOND 1979. ONE OF CENTRAL FEATURES OF USG POLICY IN ROMANIA IS TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE GOR PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS POLICY HAS MET WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. LACK OF USG SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF CENTER'S ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD AGAINST BACKGROUND OF A SUSTAINED USG CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION OF GOR IN, FOR INSTANCE, IMF, IBRD, ECOSOC, ETC. BEYOND THAT, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT GOR HOSTED WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT BUT THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT FACT AND GOR DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS HOST TO CENTER'S ACTIVITIES.

4. ON BALANCE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT USG SHOULD SUPPORT SALAS' PROPOSAL, AND, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD INFORM GOR OF ITS SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF CENTER BEFORE DECISION IS TAKEN BY UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. WE SUGGEST THIS IN VIEW OF FACT THAT WE VERY FREQUENTLY REQUEST GOR SUPPORT FOR VARIOUS USG PROPOSALS IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUPPORT IN ELECTIONS TO GOVERNING BODIES, AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LIKE. SOMETIMES GOR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT, AND OUR SUPPORT FOR SALAS' PROPOSAL WOULD CONSTITUTE A USEFUL RECIPROCITY.
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